Rule 7. Elections Conducted by the County Clerk and Recorder

7.1 Election plans

7.1.1 The county clerk must submit an election plan to the Secretary of State no later than 110 days before every election. The county clerk must submit with the election plan all information required by section 1-7.5-105(1.3), C.R.S.

7.1.2 To request a waiver from the requirements of section 1-5-102.9(c)(III)(A), C.R.S., a county clerk must complete and submit the approved waiver form no later than the filing of their election plan.

7.1.3 Approval of election plans and submission of amendments

(a) If the Secretary of State requests modifications to a plan before approval, the county clerk must submit the modified plan within ten days from the request. The Secretary of State will approve or disapprove the modified plan within 15 days from the date it is received.

(b) A county clerk may amend a timely submitted election plan by submitting a written statement outlining the amendment. The amendment must state the specific section of the plan amended and the reason for the amendment. The Secretary of State will approve or disapprove the amendment within 15 days from the date it is received. If the amendment is received within 30 days before the election, the Secretary of State will approve or disapprove the amendment within two business days.

7.2 Ballots and ballot packets

7.2.1 In accordance with section 1-7-116(1), C.R.S., for all coordinated elections, the outgoing envelope, instructions, or other notice must include a notice advising electors that they may receive a ballot from another political subdivision conducting a mail ballot election.

7.2.2 If the ballot is returned to the election official as undeliverable, the county clerk is not required to re-mail the ballot packet.

7.2.3 The county clerk must process all new registration applications and updates received by the 22-day deadline to mail applicants a ballot in accordance with section 1-7.5-107(3), C.R.S.

7.2.4 Voiding ballots due to timely changes in address or affiliation.

(a) If an elector timely changes his or her address or affiliation after the county mails ballots or sends the voter file to the vendor, the county must void the first ballot and generate a second ballot.

(1) If the county processes the change to the elector’s record after it sends the voter file to the vendor but before the vendor prints ballots, the county must provide the vendor a voided ballot file to prevent the vendor from printing and preparing voided ballots for mailing.

(2) If the county processes the change to the elector’s record after the vendor has printed ballots but before the vendor mails ballots, the county
must work with the vendor to make every reasonable effort to remove voided ballots before they enter the mail stream.

(A) If the county mails its own ballots, the county clerk must remove all voided ballots before mailing.

(B) If the county processes the change to the elector’s record after it mails ballots, the county must count the first ballot returned by the elector in accordance with section 1-7.5-107(6), C.R.S., except where an elector changed his or her affiliation, the county must count the ballot issued for the elector’s new party affiliation.

7.2.5 Each mail ballot return envelope and mail ballot instruction must include a statement informing voters that it is a violation of law to receive more than ten ballots for mailing or delivery in any election.

7.2.6 Each mail ballot return envelope may include the following statement: “I am voluntarily giving my ballot to (name and address) for delivery on my behalf.” If the county clerk includes this statement on their return envelopes they must include an explanation in their voter instructions that the voter is not required to fill this statement out to return their ballot. If the voter leaves the fillable portion of the statement blank, the county clerk must accept the ballot for counting if it is otherwise valid.

7.2.7 A county that uses a vendor to mail ballots must print the elector’s full name under or near the self-affirmation signature line on each ballot return envelope.

7.2.8 The county clerk must provide a space on the ballot-return envelope for a witness to the elector’s mark to provide his or her full legal name.

7.2.9 The mail ballot packet required under sections 1-4-101(2)(b) and 1-4-1203(4)(c), C.R.S. must contain only the ballots of each participating major political party unless a major party’s presidential primary election has been cancelled under section 1-4-1203(5), C.R.S.

7.2.10 An unaffiliated voter who wants to receive the mail ballot of a participating minor political party in the mail must declare a mail ballot preference for that party in accordance with section 1-2-204(2)(j.5), C.R.S.

7.2.11 If an unaffiliated voter selects a mail ballot preference for a major or minor political party that is not participating or that prohibits unaffiliated voters from voting in its primary election, the county clerk must send the voter the mail ballot packet described in Rule 7.2.9. The packet must include a notice explaining why the voter is receiving the packet or provide an alternative method for the voter to obtain this information.

7.2.12 A voter affiliated with a Qualified Political Organization is considered an unaffiliated voter for the purposes of this Rule 7.2.

7.2.13 A voter affiliated with a political party that is not participating in the primary election will not receive a mail ballot.

7.2.14 The mail ballot return envelope for each unaffiliated voter in a primary election may provide a means for the county to determine, before opening the envelope, which party’s primary election ballot the elector returned. If the mail ballot return envelope does not provide such a means, or the county cannot determine which party’s ballot the elector returned before opening the envelope, the county must follow the process outlined in
Rule 7.4.15. The county’s determination under this Rule may not rely solely on a voter’s self-reported selection (for example, a checkbox).

7.2.15 Each mail ballot return envelope and mail ballot instruction for an unaffiliated voter who has not declared a preference in a primary election must include a statement instructing the voter to return only one ballot.

7.2.16 The county clerk must issue a replacement mail ballot packet to an unaffiliated elector in a primary election as follows:

(a) If the elector has not declared a mail ballot preference, the county clerk must issue a packet containing the ballots of all participating major political parties.

(b) If the Elector has timely declared a mail ballot preference, the county clerk must issue the elector’s preferred political party’s ballot; or upon the elector’s request, a packet containing the ballots of all participating major political parties.

7.2.17 Print vendors may overlay a 2-D barcode for purposes of mailing and insertion provided that it only contains the precinct number and ballot style name and the information in the barcode is not traceable to any individual voter.

7.3 Emergency ballot transmission

7.3.1 The county clerk may deliver a replacement ballot on election day to an elector’s authorized representative or to the elector by electronic transmission in the case of an emergency replacement ballot under section 1-7.5-115, C.R.S., upon receipt of a completed application by the elector. If the county clerk delivers an emergency replacement ballot to an elector by electronic transmission, the elector may return the ballot by electronic transmission.

7.3.2 Voters who request an emergency ballot be sent to them electronically must be directed by the county clerk to the online ballot delivery system maintained by the Secretary of State to receive their ballot electronically. The Secretary of State will maintain information regarding emergency ballots accessed using the online ballot delivery system.

7.3.3 The county clerk may send an emergency ballot and all materials provided in the online ballot delivery system by other means, including by fax or in-person through an authorized representative who presents a written statement from the voter, if the voter requests that method of delivery.

7.3.4 Upon receipt of the ballot, election judges must verify the signature on the affidavit under Rule 7.7. After the signature on the affidavit has been verified, a bipartisan team of election judges must duplicate the ballot following the procedures outlined in Rule 18. Duplicating judges must not reveal how the elector has cast his or her ballot.

7.4 Receipt and processing of ballots

7.4.1 The county clerk must adequately light all drop box locations and use a video security surveillance recording system as defined in Rule 1.1.44 to monitor each location.

(a) Drop box locations must be monitored when they are open to receive ballots.

(b) If the drop box location utilizes a drop-slot into a building, the ballots must be collected in a locked container, and both the drop-slot and container must be monitored.
(c) Signage at each drop box location must inform voters that it is a violation of law for any person to collect more than ten ballots for mailing or delivery in any election, and that electioneering is prohibited within 100 feet of any drop box.

(d) The minimum number of drop box locations must be open 24 hours a day through 7:00 p.m. on election day.

(e) Video security surveillance must be retained by the county clerk through 60 days following the deadline to certify the election, or until the conclusion of any election contest, whichever is later; except that if the county clerk knows or reasonably should know that there is a potential violation of law where the surveillance could be used as evidence, it must be retained through the applicable statute of limitations or the conclusion of any judicial proceeding related to the election, whichever is later.

7.4.2 Each day when ballots come in, an election official must count the ballot envelopes, batch them and record the number of ballots received.

7.4.3 A county clerk who receives an application and ballot from a voter with a disability covered under section 1-5-706, C.R.S. must maintain a log of each ballot and application received under this section. The county clerk must retain the log as part of the official election record. The log must include: the name of the voter; the date the ballot packet was received; and the initials of the election judge or employee who received the ballot.

7.4.4 An election official must date-stamp and process the returned ballot envelopes in SCORE immediately upon receipt at the ballot processing location. Except for ballots submitted by military or overseas electors, any ballot received after the close of polls must be date-stamped but not counted.

7.4.5 The county clerk must arrange for the collection of ballots by bipartisan teams, of election judges and/or staff, from each drop box location once it is open and receive the ballots into SCORE:

   (a) If applicable, at least once every 72 hours after non-UOCAVA ballots are mailed until the date that voter service and polling centers must open;

   (b) If applicable, at least once every 24 hours during the days that voter service and polling centers must be open; and

   (c) At least twice on election day, at approximately 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

   (d) The county clerk may meet the requirements of this Rule by:

       (1) Collecting and transporting the ballots to the central counting location for receipt into SCORE; or

       (2) Collecting and transporting the ballots to the nearest voter service and polling center for receipt into SCORE.

7.4.6 The county clerk may request a waiver from the Secretary of State for remote drop box locations in the county’s election plan or amended election plan, exempting them from the ballot collection requirements in Rule 7.5.5. If the Secretary of State grants the waiver:
(a) The county clerk must arrange for the collection of ballots by bipartisan teams of election judges from all exempt drop box locations once they are open as often as necessary, but at least:

(1) Once each week after the initial mailing of non-UOCAVA ballots until the Friday before election day; and

(2) On the Friday and Monday before election day and on election day at 7:00 p.m. MT.

(b) The county clerk must post a notice on each exempt drop box of the dates and approximate times ballots will be collected.

(c) If the Secretary of State determines that the county failed to collect ballots from a remote drop box location as often as necessary, the Secretary of State may revoke or modify the waiver.

7.4.7 Election officials must record the number of ballot packets returned as undeliverable and receive the ballot packets in SCORE upon receipt.

7.4.8 The designated election official must seal and store ballots and return envelopes in a safe, secure place until the counting of the ballots.

7.4.9 After election judges verify the elector’s eligibility and signature, the county clerk must dissociate and segregate the mail ballot return envelope from the secrecy sleeve, if applicable, and a voted ballot in a manner that ensures no person is able to determine how an individual voted.

7.4.10 If the county clerk discovers a violation of section 1-7.5-107(4)(b), C.R.S., prohibiting any person from receiving more than 10 ballots in addition to his or her own in any election, the county clerk must refer the information to the District Attorney and receive the ballots delivered by that person.

7.4.11 Before tabulating ballots, the county clerk must, to the extent practicable, dissociate counting batches from any SCORE batch number that could trace a ballot back to the specific voter who cast it.

7.4.12 If an elector delivers a ballot to the wrong county, that county must date stamp the ballot envelope and timely forward it to the correct county. Beginning the Monday before election day, the county must notify the correct county of receipt by secure electronic transmission with a scanned image of the outside of the mail ballot envelope including the signature, and forward it to the correct county no later than the next business day. A county that physically delivers ballots to another county no later than the next business day, or immediately transmits them by next-day delivery, is not required to scan the envelope. The correct county must treat the ballot as received as of the date and time of the date stamp. The county receiving the image may perform signature verification upon receipt of the image.

7.4.13 The county clerk must date stamp each ballot envelope as received on or before 7:00 PM on election day and immediately forward it to the correct county. The correct county must treat the ballot as received as of the date and time of the date stamp.

7.4.14 County clerks who deliver or receive ballots from electors who are confined in a county jail or detention facility must log the number of ballots delivered and received from each facility and provide the log to the Secretary of State’s office following the election.
7.4.15 If an election judge is unable to determine, before opening the envelope, which party’s ballot an unaffiliated elector returned as outlined in Rule 7.2.9, the county must separate the elector’s ballot from the envelope in the following manner:

(a) An election judge must remove the ballot from the mail ballot return envelope and pass it to a bipartisan team of judges without allowing the team of judges to determine the identity of the elector.

(b) The bipartisan team of election judges must review the ballot and audibly report to the first election judge which political party’s election the elector voted in.

(c) The first election judge must record in SCORE which political party’s election the elector voted in, or document the proper party information for later recording in SCORE.

7.4.16 If an unaffiliated elector returns more than one ballot in a primary election, a bipartisan team of election judges must review the ballots to determine the elector’s intent in accordance with the Secretary of State’s Voter Intent Guide.

(a) If the bipartisan team determines the elector voted in only one party’s primary election, the election judge with access to the envelope must record the party chosen in SCORE under Rule 7.4.5(c) and the ballot must be counted. The county must retain any unvoted ballot as an election record.

(b) If the bipartisan team determines the elector voted in more than one party’s primary election, or returned only blank ballots, the county must reject the ballots, not count them, and retain them in the mail ballot return envelope as an election record.

7.5 Ballot returned in unofficial envelope. If the county timely receives a mail ballot from an eligible elector in an envelope that is missing or lacks the correct self-affirmation, the county must contact the elector by mail and by electronic mail, if available, within three calendar days of receiving the ballot but no later than two calendar days after election day. The county must use the letter and affidavit prescribed by the Secretary of State and keep a copy as part of the official election record. If the county receives the completed affidavit no later than the eighth day after election day, the county must count the ballot. A county that receives a ballot from a voter with a disability covered under section 1-5-706, C.R.S., in an unofficial envelope must accept the ballot for processing if the envelope also contains a signed application from the voter.

7.6 Mail ballot cure procedures

7.6.1 Except as provided in Rule 7.6.4, the county clerk must follow the procedures for discrepant signatures outlined in section 1-7.5-107.3(2)(a), C.R.S., if:

(a) A mail ballot return envelope lacks a signature;

(b) A provisional ballot return envelope lacks a signature;

(c) A ballot from a voter with a disability covered under section 1-5-706, C.R.S., is returned without an application; or

(d) A ballot from a voter with a disability covered under section 1-5-706, C.R.S., is returned with an application that is not signed and does not include a copy of an acceptable form of identification as defined by section 1-1-104(19.5), C.R.S.
7.6.2 The county clerk must use the letter and form prescribed by the Secretary of State and keep a copy as part of the official election record.

7.6.3 If the county clerk uses any means in addition to mail or electronic mail to contact any elector regarding a missing or discrepant signature or missing ID, he or she must attempt to contact all similarly situated electors whose registration records have the same type of contact information.

7.6.4 If an elector fails to cure a missing signature, the county clerk need not send a copy of the mail ballot return envelope to the district attorney for investigation.

7.6.5 The county clerk must accept any completed cure form for a missing or discrepant signature, or a missing ID, that the county receives by 11:59 pm MT on the eighth day after the election.

7.7 Signature verification procedures

7.7.1 When reviewing signatures through the use of signature verification judges, a single election judge must conduct the first level of signature verification.

7.7.2 If the elector’s signature appears anywhere on the ballot return envelope, the election judge must verify the signature in accordance with section 1-7.5-107.3, C.R.S.

7.7.3 An election judge conducting signature verification must compare the signature on the self-affirmation on each ballot return envelope with the elector’s signature in SCORE in accordance with the Secretary of State’s Signature Verification Guide.

7.7.4 If an election judge must conduct further research on an elector’s signature, he or she must check SCORE for additional documents signed by the voter, if available.

7.7.5 An election judge may compare additional information written by the voter on the return envelope, such as the voter’s address and date of signing. Any similarities noted when comparing other information may be used as part of the signature verification decision process.

7.7.6 If an election judge determines that a voter inadvertently returned his or her ballot in another household member’s ballot return envelope, the election judge must process and prepare the ballot of the elector who signed the self-affirmation for counting if it is otherwise valid. The election judge need not send a signature discrepancy letter to the voter.

7.7.7 If, after bipartisan review, the election judges determine that a signature is discrepant, the judges must document the discrepancy and the research steps taken in a log that:

(a) Identifies the elector only by name and voter identification number.
(b) Does not contain the elector’s signature.
(c) Notes the final resolution and ballot disposition.
(d) Identifies the election judges responsible for final resolution and ballot disposition.

7.7.8 The county clerk must periodically audit signature verification judges. If a judge or team of judges has an unexplained, irregular acceptance or rejection rate, the county clerk
must retrain or remove that judge or team of judges from conducting signature verification.

7.7.9 The election official must use the letter and the signature verification form approved by the Secretary of State.

7.7.10 If the county uses a ballot sorting and signature capture device, the county clerk must test the device before using it in an election to ensure that it properly sorts envelopes, and accurately and clearly captures the signature on the envelope for comparison to the correct voter record.

7.7.11 Use of automated Signature Verification Devices under section 1-7.5-107.3(5)(b), C.R.S.

(a) The county clerk must test Signature Verification Devices at the beginning of an election by following the procedures in this rule.

(1) The testing must verify the accuracy of the device and ensure that the device will not accept a signature that a reasonably trained election judge would reject.

(2) The county must pull and test at least the first 150 ballot envelopes received in the election and conduct an audit of the machine-verified signatures.

(A) A team of bipartisan election officials must manually review the signatures identified on the Automated Signature Recognition report following the procedures in section 1-7.5-107.3, C.R.S., and this Rule.

(B) If both election judges agree that a signature accepted by the device would not have been accepted if reviewed by election judges, the county must immediately cease use of automated signature verification and notify the Secretary of State. The county clerk must not resume use until the Secretary of State and the county have worked in coordination to identify the issue and implement a solution.

(C) The election judges conducting the audit must sign and date the Automated Signature Recognition Report and the report must be maintained with all other election records under section 1-7-802, C.R.S.

(b) The county must conduct a regular audit of each Signature Verification Device during its use.

(1) The county must pull a random sampling of at least five in every one-hundred machine-verified signatures daily.

(2) A team of bipartisan election judges must manually review the signatures identified on the Automated Signature Recognition report following the procedures in section 1-7.5-107.3, C.R.S., and this Rule.

(3) The election judges conducting the audit must sign and date the Automated Signature Recognition Report and the report must be maintained with all other election records under section 1-7-802, C.R.S.
(4) If both election judges agree that a signature accepted by the device would not have been accepted if reviewed by election judges, the county must immediately cease use of automated signature verification and notify the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State and the county must work in coordination to identify the issue and implement a solution.

(5) No later than 90 days after election day, the county clerk must provide to the Secretary of State a report of the ballots audited under this rule on the form approved by the Secretary of State.

(c) The county must operate the device on a secure network.

(1) The county may connect the device to the county network only for maintenance and support.

(2) The device must be secured by the county firewall.

(3) The county must maintain a maintenance and support log that includes the name of the person providing maintenance or support, the date and time the device was accessed, and the specific reason for access.

7.7.12 If a county uses a signature capture device to compare a ballot envelope signature to a signature maintained in SCORE, the system may display only one voter’s signature at a time.

7.7.13 Following the election, the county clerk must report to the Secretary of State in writing the number of ballot return envelopes with discrepant signatures that the clerk forwarded to the district attorney for investigation.

7.8 Voter service and polling centers

7.8.1 The county clerk must designate and open the minimum number of voter service and polling centers as required in section 1-5-102.9, C.R.S., for a general election and section 1-7.5-107(4.5), C.R.S., for all other elections.

(a) For a general election, the minimum number of voter service and polling centers must be open beginning 15 days before election day during the following hours:

(1) In a county described in section 1-5-102.9 (1)(a)(I) or (1)(a)(II), C.R.S., voter service and polling centers must be open from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. Monday through Friday, and the second Saturday.

(2) In all other counties, voter service and polling centers must be open during normal business hours, which means at least eight hours per day Monday through Friday, and at least four hours continuously on the second Saturday.

(b) For any primary or November coordinated election, the minimum number of voter service and polling centers must be open beginning 8 days before election day during normal business hours, which means at least eight hours Monday through Friday, and at least four hours continuously on Saturday.

(c) All voter service and polling centers must be open from 7:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m. on election day.
(d) Signage at each voter service and polling center must indicate that it is a violation of law for any person to collect more than ten ballots for delivery in any election.

7.8.2 Voter service and polling center materials include sufficient computer stations for SCORE access, HAVA information, signature cards, paper ballots, voting booths and a ballot box.

7.8.3 In order to assist applicants and electors efficiently, a county clerk must configure voter service and polling centers with sufficient election judges, WebSCORE work stations, voting equipment, and sufficient numbers of mail and in-person ballots that can be tabulated by the county’s voting system without further duplication, and other supplies. A county may satisfy this Rule by providing a sufficient number of ballot marking devices or ballot on demand printers.

7.8.4 Except for voters with disabilities, the maximum allowable time in a voting booth is 15 minutes if there are voters waiting. The Secretary of State may order additional time based on the length of the ballot.

7.8.5 Any eligible elector may vote in-person at a voter service and polling center. An election judge must void the elector’s mail ballot in SCORE before issuing an in-person ballot.

7.8.6 If a voter leaves the voting area without completing the voting process, two judges of different affiliation must, to the extent possible, cover the voter’s choices, and cast the ballot as the voter left it.

7.8.7 An unaffiliated elector voting in person at a voter service and polling center in a primary election must state which party’s election he or she chooses to vote in, and the election judge must indicate the voter’s selection in WebSCORE and provide the voter with that party’s ballot.

7.8.8 On election day, a county must measure and record the wait time at each of its voter service and polling centers in accordance with the Secretary of State’s written wait time policy document.

7.8.9 Each county must report its wait time data results to the Secretary of State no later than 30 days after the election.

7.8.10 A county clerk that receives notice of a petition for extending the hours of any voter service and polling center on election day must immediately notify the Secretary of State of the order. If an order is entered by any court that extends the hours of any voter service and polling center in the state, all counties must wait to post, publish, or disclose election night results until the time for the extension has passed; except that a county may upload its results to the secretary of state. The Secretary of State’s office will not publish results on the Election Night Reporting system until all polls have closed.

7.8.11 The county clerk of any county that has a tribal council headquarters located within the county borders must notify the tribal council by letter that the tribal nation has the right to request that a voter service and polling center be located within the boundaries of the tribal nation in the upcoming general election. The county clerk must send this notification by mail no later than 225 days before the date of any general election.

7.9 The county clerk must complete an accessibility survey for all drop box and voter service and polling center locations annually before designating a location for use, and no later than 120 days before an election, the county clerk must designate drop-off, drop box, and voter service and polling center locations. In a presidential election year, the county clerk’s accessibility survey for
the presidential primary election serves as the annual survey for that voter service and polling center or drop box through the following general election.

7.9.1 For the first survey of a location, the county clerk must complete the full ADA Checklist for voter service and polling centers. The county clerk must complete the Annual Voter Service and Polling Center Accessibility Survey form for each location designated for use in an election year after the initial survey is completed.

7.9.2 If a location fails to meet the minimum accessibility requirements outlined in the ADA Checklist, the county clerk must develop a barrier removal plan outlining the modifications that the county clerk will implement to bring the site into compliance. The county clerk must indicate on the survey whether the modifications are temporary or permanent.

7.9.3 The Secretary of State may deny an application for accessibility grant funds if a county clerk fails to assess locations, timely file complete accessibility surveys, or develop and implement necessary barrier removal plans in accordance with this Rule. The Secretary will conduct site visits to assess compliance and identify accessibility barriers. The Secretary will seek injunctive action or other penalties under section 1-1-107(2)(d), C.R.S., as necessary to remedy violations of this Rule.

7.10 Voter service and polling center connectivity

7.10.1 The county must have real-time access to SCORE and WebSCORE at every voter service and polling center.

7.10.2 At no time may an election official open simultaneous sessions of both SCORE and WebSCORE on a single workstation.

7.10.3 Every voter service and polling center designated by the county clerk must meet the minimum security procedures for transmitting voter registration data as outlined in section 1-5-102.9, C.R.S., and Rule 2.17.

7.11 At each Voter Service and Polling Center, election judges and, if appropriate, election staff, must:

7.11.1 Provide all services outlined in 1-5-102.9, C.R.S., including providing blank cure forms and collecting completed cure forms for voters who wish to cure their ballot in accordance with sections 1-2-502.5 (4)(c), 1-7.5-107 (3.5)(d), or 1-7.5-107.3 (1.5), C.R.S.; and

7.11.2 Use WebSCORE to register voters; update existing voter registrations; issue and replace mail ballots; and issue, spoil, and replace in-person ballots.

7.12 Assisting voters with disabilities in a voter service and polling center

7.12.1 The designated election official must post a sign at the voter service and polling center that states:

NOTICE

VOTING ASSISTANCE FOR ELECTORS WITH DISABILITIES

Colorado law protects a voter’s legal right to assistance in voting if assistance is needed because of a disability.

1. If you require assistance, please inform an election judge.
2. Any person, including an election judge, may assist you.

3. If you select a person other than an election judge, he or she must complete a Voter Assistance Form, which includes an oath that states:

   I, ........, certify that I am the individual chosen by the elector to assist the elector in casting a ballot. I further certify that I will not in any way attempt to persuade or induce the elector to vote in a particular manner, nor will I cast the elector’s vote other than as directed by the elector I am assisting.

4. The person you select may provide any assistance you need, including entering the voting booth, preparing the ballot, or operating the voting machine.

5. The person assisting you may not seek to persuade you or induce you to vote in a particular manner.

6. The election judge must record the name of each voter who receives assistance and the name of the person who provides assistance on the signature card.

7.12.2 If a voter has spoiled two ballots and requests a third ballot, an election official must offer assistance in voting and casting the ballot.

7.13 Voter history

7.13.1 After the canvass, the designated election official must give vote credit to each person who voted in the election.

7.13.2 If the voter history records do not match the number of voters at that election, the designated election official must ensure the following:

   (a) Each voter received credit; and

   (b) All signature cards are accounted for.

7.13.3 The designated election official must explain and document all research concerning discrepancies.

7.14 Reimbursement to counties for state ballot measure elections. No later than 90 days after an election, the county must submit a completed request for reimbursement under section 1-5-505.5, C.R.S. The county must submit the request using the form provided by the Secretary of State.

7.15 Within 120 days after election day, or before the first day to conduct signature verification at the next county or municipal mail ballot election, whichever is sooner, the county clerk must scan into SCORE the elector’s signature and signature date on each accepted mail ballot return envelope and on any cure letter returned by the elector. In a presidential primary year, the deadline for scanning signatures and signature dates from all prior elections that year is extended to 120 days after the state primary election. A county that is unable to scan the signature and/or signature date into SCORE may apply to the Secretary of State for a waiver from these requirements.

7.16 Closure of VSPCs due to emergency condition

7.16.1 If as a result of an extreme weather event, natural disaster, act of God, human made incident, or threat of disruption to, or threat of disruption to critical infrastructure, a county government or other entity closes all day, closes early, or delays the opening of a building where a voter service and polling center is located, then the county clerk may close for
the day, close early, or delay the opening of any voter service and polling center located in those buildings affected.

7.16.2 The county clerk must immediately notify the Secretary of State and the public of any closure or delayed opening of a voter service and polling center under this rule.

7.16.3 A county clerk must relocate VSPC operations to a backup location in the event a closure would result in the county not meeting their statutory minimum VSPCs. A county clerk must immediately notify the Secretary of State of the backup location that they will relocate to.

7.16.4 The Secretary of State may petition a court under section 1-7-101 (1)(b), C.R.S. to extend the polling hours in a county or statewide if voter service and polling centers are closed or delayed opening under this rule.

7.16.5 If a county clerk closes or delays the opening of a voter service and polling center under this rule, then the Secretary of State and county clerk must issue an emergency ballot available under section 1-7.5-115, C.R.S. to any voter who requests it due to the delay or closure.