



MAIL-IN VOTING: ELECTION INTEGRITY SAFEGUARDS

PROCEDURAL

	SAFEGUARD	DESCRIPTION	IN-PERSON EQUIVALENT
	Ballot packages and envelopes	Many states coordinate with USPS to designate ballot packages as "Official Election Mail" to demonstrate authenticity.	None
	Signature attestation	In many states, ballot packages are signed by the voter attesting under penalty of perjury that they are the person who filled out the ballot.	A voter announces their name and address and signs a pollbook attesting their identity.
	Signature verification	In many states, election officials verify each signature manually or by using technology. In most states, there is an escalated review process for ballots flagged as having an issue.	Voters sign the poll book. However, there is no similar process for verifying in-person voter signatures prior to issuing voter a ballot.
	Voter validation	In some states, a voter's identity must be validated before the ballot proceeds to the tabulation process.	This process is the same for states with voter ID or proof of residency requirements.
	Voter authentication	In some states, each voter is authenticated by having a witness sign the ballot package or by having it notarized.	There is no pre-authentication equivalency. Some states have the opposite where an in-person voter's identity can be challenged.
	Cure process	In some states, if the voter cannot be validated or authenticated, the voter is contacted to correct any issues.	Similarly, the provisional process provides an additional round of checks before the ballot is accepted or rejected.

PHYSICAL BALLOT

	Ballot style codes	Most ballots have proprietary style codes, such as timing marks, code channels, or QR codes. If the codes are not recognized by the voting machines, the ballot is rejected, and an election official manually reviews it.	N/A
	Ballot paper specifications	Most ballots are printed on a specific type of paper. If the paper does not match the specifications in length, paper weight, or opacity, the voting machine will reject the ballot.	N/A
	Ballot watermarks	Some ballots have watermarks indicating that the ballot is authentic. Watermarks are specific to each election and confirm the ballot was printed by an approved printing authority.	N/A