Washoe County
Ballot Processing Capacity

Cari-Ann Burgess

Interim Registrar of Voters

Washoe County

- The Washoe County Central Ballot Counting Room is 4,019 Square Feet.

- In 2018, 19,696 mail-in ballots were processed in the General Election. This accounted for 7.32% Washoe County turnout.

- In 2020, 132,241 mail-in ballots were processed in the General Election. A 571% increase in volume from 2018, coming out to 43.47% turnout for Washoe County.

- In 2022, 103,085 mail-in ballots were processed in the General Election. This accounted for 33.8% voter turnout.

Ballot Sorting Machine

Ballot Sorting Machine

- Brought in during 2020 for the anticipated volume of mail-in ballots
- Does the heavy lifting on the initial processing side
- Sorts ballots into precincts, which is then later batched by staff

Ballot Cage

Ballot Cage

- A secured "cage" within our secure central ballot counting room
- Holds all our ballots. As we process the different stations, we always close the ballots within the cage.
- Recent redesign established a more efficient use of space

Speed of Processing

- Signature Verification and Extraction are two speed bottlenecks
- New VREMS compatible ballot sorting machine will allow for automatic signature verification
- New Ballot Extraction machines will reduce impact on space and staffing required.

Staffing

- Restricted space leads to our ballot counting room easily reaching staffing capacity

- Staffing capacity leads to the inherent challenge of individually signature verifying every mail-in ballot as well as extracting each ballot from their envelope

- Our backroom currently has 9 stations for Ballot Extraction. Each station has a team of 2 bi-partisan workers to extract the ballot by hand from the envelope

Closing

- As the population in Washoe County grows, our capacity is expected to grow with it.

- County Management is committed to expanding the Registrar of Voter's office to meet the need for growth

- With every Election Day that passes, our department gain more knowledge, speed, and efficiency