

SENATE BILL NO. 195—SENATORS STEINBECK, HANSEN,
TITUS, STONE, ROGICH; AND ELLISON

FEBRUARY 10, 2025

JOINT SPONSOR: ASSEMBLYMEMBER COLE

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to elections.
(BDR 24-907)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.
Effect on the State: Yes.

CONTAINS UNFUNDED MANDATE (§§ 2, 3, 10, 11)
(NOT REQUESTED BY AFFECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to elections; requiring the Secretary of State and each county or city clerk to establish procedures to inform registered voters of the requirements for voting by mail ballot; requiring each county or city clerk to provide training to election board officers and certain employees relating to processing and counting mail ballots; requiring the county or city clerk to submit a report to the Secretary of State relating to mail ballots after each election; revising the deadline for returning mail ballots and curing certain defects in mail ballots; revising the requirements for establishing procedures for the processing and counting of mail ballots; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Existing law requires the county or city clerk to establish procedures for the
2 processing and counting of mail ballots. (NRS 293.269925, 293C.26325) **Sections**
3 **7 and 15** of this bill require that such procedures be fair and efficient.

4 **Sections 2 and 10** of this bill require the Secretary of State and each county or
5 city clerk to establish procedures to inform registered voters of the requirements for
6 voting by mail ballot. **Sections 2 and 10** further require each county or city clerk to



7 provide training to election board officers and employees of the elections division
8 of the county or city on the requirements for processing and counting mail ballots.

9 **Sections 3 and 11** of this bill require, after each election, the county or city
10 clerk to submit a report to the Secretary of State regarding mail ballots. **Sections 3**
11 **and 11** also require the Secretary of State to compile the information received from
12 the county and city clerks and submit a summary to the Director of the Legislative
13 Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Legislature or Legislative Commission, as
14 applicable.

15 Existing law requires that a mail ballot that is: (1) mailed to a county or city
16 clerk be postmarked on or before the day of the election and received by 5 p.m. on
17 the fourth day following the election; or (2) delivered by hand to the county or city
18 clerk or any drop box before the time set for closing of the polls on election day.
19 (NRS 293.269921, 293.269923, 293C.26321, 293C.26323) **Sections 5, 6, 13 and**
20 **14** of this bill require instead that a mail ballot be delivered to the county or city
21 clerk before the close of business of the office of the county or city clerk, as
22 applicable, regardless of whether the mail ballot is returned by mail or delivered by
23 hand to the county or city clerk or any drop box.

24 Existing law requires certain persons who have not previously voted in any
25 election for federal office in this State to include a copy of certain information in
26 the return envelope with a mail ballot. If such a person fails to provide the
27 information in the return envelope, the county or city clerk must allow the person to
28 provide the required information before 5 p.m. on the sixth day following the
29 election in order for the person's mail ballot to be counted. (NRS 293.269915,
30 293C.26314) **Sections 4 and 12** of this bill provide instead that the county or city
31 clerk must allow the person to provide the required information before 5 p.m. on
32 the third day following the election in order for the person's mail ballot to be
33 counted.

34 Existing law provides that if the county or city clerk determines when checking
35 the signature used for the mail ballot that the voter failed to affix his or her
36 signature or failed to affix it in the manner required by law for the mail ballot or
37 that there is a reasonable question of fact as to whether the signature used for the
38 mail ballot matches the signature of the voter, but the voter is otherwise entitled to
39 cast the mail ballot, the clerk shall contact the voter and advise the voter of the
40 procedures to provide a signature or a confirmation that the signature used for
41 the mail ballot belongs to the voter, as applicable. For the mail ballot to be counted,
42 the voter must provide a signature or a confirmation, as applicable, not later than 5
43 p.m. on the sixth day following the election. (NRS 293.269927, 293C.26327)
44 **Sections 8 and 16** of this bill provide instead that for the mail ballot to be counted,
45 the voter must provide a signature or a confirmation, as applicable, not later than 5
46 p.m. on the third day following the election.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 293 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 and 3 of this act.

3 **Sec. 2. 1. *The Secretary of State and each county clerk***
4 ***shall establish procedures to inform registered voters of the***
5 ***requirements for voting by mail ballot, including, without***
6 ***limitation:***



1 (a) *The deadline for returning a mail ballot by mail or*
2 *personal delivery; and*

3 (b) *The deadline and process for a registered voter to cure any*
4 *defect with the voter's signature on the mail ballot pursuant to*
5 *NRS 293.269927.*

6 ↪ *The procedures established pursuant to this subsection must*
7 *not conflict with the provisions of this section and NRS*
8 *293.269911 to 293.269937, inclusive, and section 3 of this act.*

9 2. *Each county clerk shall provide training to election board*
10 *officers and employees of the elections division of the county on*
11 *the requirements for processing and counting mail ballots,*
12 *including, without limitation, the process for allowing a registered*
13 *voter to cure any defect with the registered voter's signature on the*
14 *mail ballot.*

15 **Sec. 3.** 1. *After each election, the county clerk shall submit*
16 *a report to the Secretary of State regarding mail ballots that*
17 *includes, without limitation:*

18 (a) *The number of mail ballots that were sent to registered*
19 *voters;*

20 (b) *The number of mail ballots that were returned by*
21 *registered voters;*

22 (c) *The number of mail ballots that were returned to the*
23 *county clerk by mail or personal delivery;*

24 (d) *The number of mail ballots that were returned without the*
25 *signature of the registered voter or that contained a defect in the*
26 *signature;*

27 (e) *The number of registered voters who were contacted by the*
28 *county clerk to cure a missing or defective signature; and*

29 (f) *The total number of mail ballots that were counted in the*
30 *election.*

31 2. *The Secretary of State shall compile the information*
32 *received pursuant to subsection 1 from each county clerk and*
33 *submit a summary to the Director of the Legislative Counsel*
34 *Bureau for transmittal to the Legislature or, if the Legislature is*
35 *not in session, to the Legislative Commission.*

36 **Sec. 4.** NRS 293.269915 is hereby amended to read as
37 follows:

38 293.269915 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2,
39 if a person applied by mail or computer to register to vote, or
40 preregistered to vote by mail or computer and is subsequently
41 deemed to be registered to vote, and the person has not previously
42 voted in any election for federal office in this State, the county clerk
43 must inform the person that he or she must include a copy of the
44 information required in paragraph (b) of subsection 1 of NRS
45 293.2725 in the return envelope with the mail ballot.



1 2. The provisions of subsection 1 do not apply to a person who:
2 (a) Registers to vote by mail or computer, or preregisters to vote
3 by mail or computer and is subsequently deemed to be registered to
4 vote, and submits with his or her application to preregister or
5 register to vote:

6 (1) A copy of a current and valid photo identification; or
7 (2) A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck
8 or document issued by a governmental entity, including a check
9 which indicates the name and address of the person, but not
10 including a voter registration card;

11 (b) Registers to vote by mail or computer and submits with his
12 or her application to register to vote a driver's license number or at
13 least the last four digits of his or her social security number, if a
14 state or local election official has matched that information with an
15 existing identification record bearing the same number, name and
16 date of birth as provided by the person in the application;

17 (c) Registers to vote pursuant to NRS 293.5768 to 293.57699,
18 inclusive, and at that time presents to the automatic voter
19 registration agency:

20 (1) A copy of a current and valid photo identification;
21 (2) A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck
22 or document issued by a governmental entity, including a check
23 which indicates the name and address of the person, but not
24 including a voter registration card; or

25 (3) A driver's license number or at least the last four digits of
26 his or her social security number, if a state or local election official
27 has matched that information with an existing identification record
28 bearing the same number, name and date of birth as provided by the
29 person in the application;

30 (d) Is entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of chapter 293D
31 of NRS or the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting
32 Act, 52 U.S.C. §§ 20301 et seq.;

33 (e) Is provided the right to vote otherwise than in person
34 pursuant to the provisions of the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly
35 and Handicapped Act, 52 U.S.C. §§ 20101 et seq.; or

36 (f) Is entitled to vote otherwise than in person pursuant to the
37 provisions of any other federal law.

38 3. If a person fails to provide the identification required
39 pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 1 of NRS 293.2725 with his
40 or her mail ballot:

41 (a) The mail ballot must be treated as a provisional ballot; and
42 (b) The county clerk must:

43 (1) Contact the person;
44 (2) Allow the person to provide the identification required
45 before 5 p.m. on the ~~sixth~~ **third** day following the election; and



1 (3) If the identification required pursuant to paragraph (b) of
2 subsection 1 of NRS 293.2725 is provided, ensure the mail ballot is
3 delivered to the appropriate mail ballot central counting board.

4 **Sec. 5.** NRS 293.269921 is hereby amended to read as
5 follows:

6 293.269921 1. Except as otherwise provided in ~~[subsection 2~~
7 ~~and]~~ chapter 293D of NRS, in order for a mail ballot to be counted
8 for any election, *before the close of business of the office of the*
9 *county clerk on the day of the election*, the mail ballot must be:

10 (a) ~~[Before the time set for closing of the polls, delivered]~~
11 *Delivered* by hand to the county clerk ~~[.]~~ or any ballot drop box
12 established in the county pursuant to this section; or

13 (b) ~~[Mailed to]~~ *Received by mail by* the county clerk. ~~[, and:~~

14 ~~— (1) Postmarked on or before the day of the election; and~~

15 ~~— (2) Received by the clerk not later than 5 p.m. on the fourth~~
16 ~~day following the election.]~~

17 2. ~~[If a mail ballot is received by mail not later than 5 p.m. on~~
18 ~~the third day following the election and the date of the postmark~~
19 ~~cannot be determined, the mail ballot shall be deemed to have been~~
20 ~~postmarked on or before the day of the election.~~

21 ~~— 3.]~~ Each county clerk must establish a ballot drop box at every
22 polling place in the county, including, without limitation, a polling
23 place for early voting. A county clerk may establish a ballot drop
24 box at any other location in the county where mail ballots can be
25 delivered by hand and collected during the period for early voting
26 and on election day. No person other than a clerk may establish a
27 drop box for mail ballots.

28 ~~[4.]~~ 3. A ballot drop box must be:

29 (a) Constructed of metal or any other rigid material of sufficient
30 strength and resistance to protect the security of the mail ballots; and

31 (b) Capable of securely receiving and holding the mail ballots
32 and being locked.

33 ~~[5.]~~ 4. A ballot drop box must be:

34 (a) Placed in an accessible and convenient location at the office
35 of the county clerk or a polling place in the county; and

36 (b) Made available for use during the hours when the office of
37 the county clerk, or the polling place, is open for business or voting,
38 as applicable ~~[.]~~, *except that on election day, the ballot drop box*
39 *must not be available after the close of business of the office of the*
40 *county clerk.*

41 **Sec. 6.** NRS 293.269923 is hereby amended to read as
42 follows:

43 293.269923 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2,
44 at the request of a voter whose mail ballot has been prepared by or
45 on behalf of the voter, a person authorized by the voter may return



1 the mail ballot on behalf of the voter by mail or personal delivery to
2 the county clerk, or any ballot drop box established in the county,
3 pursuant to NRS 293.269921.

4 2. Except for an election board officer in the course of the
5 election board officer's official duties, a person shall not willfully:

6 (a) Impede, obstruct, prevent or interfere with the return of a
7 voter's mail ballot;

8 (b) Deny a voter the right to return the voter's mail ballot; or

9 (c) If the person receives the voter's mail ballot and
10 authorization to return the mail ballot on behalf of the voter by mail
11 or personal delivery, fail to return the mail ballot ~~[, unless otherwise~~
12 ~~authorized by the voter,]~~ by mail or personal delivery ~~[:~~

13 ~~— (1) Before the end of the third day after the day of receipt, if~~
14 ~~the person receives the mail ballot from the voter four or more days~~
15 ~~before the day of the election; or~~

16 ~~— (2) Before the deadline established by the United States~~
17 ~~Postal Service for the mail ballot to be postmarked on the day of the~~
18 ~~election or before the polls close on the day of the election, as~~
19 ~~applicable to the type of delivery, if the person receives the mail~~
20 ~~ballot from the voter three or fewer days before the day of the~~
21 ~~election.] so that the mail ballot is received by the county clerk~~
22 ~~before the close of business of the office of the county clerk on the~~
23 ~~day of the election.~~

24 3. A person who violates any provision of subsection 2 is
25 guilty of a category E felony and shall be punished as provided in
26 NRS 193.130.

27 **Sec. 7.** NRS 293.269925 is hereby amended to read as
28 follows:

29 293.269925 1. The county clerk shall establish procedures
30 for the *fair and efficient* processing and counting of mail ballots.

31 2. The procedures established pursuant to subsection 1:

32 (a) May authorize mail ballots to be processed, verified and
33 counted by computer or other electronic means; and

34 (b) Must not conflict with the provisions of NRS 293.269911 to
35 293.269937, inclusive.

36 **Sec. 8.** NRS 293.269927 is hereby amended to read as
37 follows:

38 293.269927 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS
39 293D.200, when a mail ballot is returned by or on behalf of a voter
40 to the county clerk, and a record of its return is made in the mail
41 ballot record for the election, the clerk or an employee in the office
42 of the clerk shall check the signature used for the mail ballot by
43 electronic means pursuant to subsection 2 or manually pursuant to
44 subsection 3.



1 2. To check the signature used for a mail ballot by electronic
2 means:

3 (a) The electronic device must take a digital image of the
4 signature used for the mail ballot and compare the digital image
5 with the signatures of the voter from his or her application to
6 register to vote or application to preregister to vote available in the
7 records of the county clerk.

8 (b) If the electronic device does not match the signature of the
9 voter, the signature shall be reviewed manually pursuant to the
10 provisions of subsection 3.

11 3. To check the signature used for a mail ballot manually, the
12 county clerk shall use the following procedure:

13 (a) The clerk or employee shall check the signature used for the
14 mail ballot against all signatures of the voter available in the records
15 of the clerk.

16 (b) If at least two employees in the office of the clerk believe
17 there is a reasonable question of fact as to whether the signature
18 used for the mail ballot matches the signature of the voter, the clerk
19 shall contact the voter and ask the voter to confirm whether the
20 signature used for the mail ballot belongs to the voter.

21 4. For purposes of subsection 3:

22 (a) There is a reasonable question of fact as to whether the
23 signature used for the mail ballot matches the signature of the voter
24 if the signature used for the mail ballot differs in multiple,
25 significant and obvious respects from the signatures of the voter
26 available in the records of the clerk.

27 (b) There is not a reasonable question of fact as to whether the
28 signature used for the mail ballot matches the signature of the voter
29 if:

30 (1) The signature used for the mail ballot is a variation of the
31 signature of the voter caused by the substitution of initials for the
32 first or middle name, the substitution of a different type of
33 punctuation in the first, middle or last name, the use of a common
34 nickname or the use of one last name for a person who has two last
35 names and it does not otherwise differ in multiple, significant and
36 obvious respects from the signatures of the voter available in the
37 records of the clerk; or

38 (2) There are only slight dissimilarities between the signature
39 used for the mail ballot and the signatures of the voter available in
40 the records of the clerk.

41 5. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, if the clerk
42 determines that the voter is entitled to cast the mail ballot, the clerk
43 shall deposit the mail ballot in the proper ballot box or place the
44 mail ballot, unopened, in a container that must be securely locked or
45 under the control of the clerk at all times. The clerk shall deliver the



1 mail ballots to the mail ballot central counting board to be processed
2 and prepared for counting.

3 6. If the clerk determines when checking the signature used for
4 the mail ballot that the voter failed to affix his or her signature or
5 failed to affix it in the manner required by law for the mail ballot or
6 that there is a reasonable question of fact as to whether the signature
7 used for the mail ballot matches the signature of the voter, but the
8 voter is otherwise entitled to cast the mail ballot, the clerk shall
9 contact the voter and advise the voter of the procedures to provide a
10 signature or a confirmation that the signature used for the mail ballot
11 belongs to the voter, as applicable. For the mail ballot to be counted,
12 the voter must provide a signature or a confirmation, as applicable,
13 not later than 5 p.m. on the ~~sixth~~ *third* day following the election.

14 7. The clerk shall prescribe procedures for a voter who failed to
15 affix his or her signature or failed to affix it in the manner required
16 by law for the mail ballot, or for whom there is a reasonable
17 question of fact as to whether the signature used for the mail ballot
18 matches the signature of the voter, in order to:

19 (a) Contact the voter;

20 (b) Allow the voter to provide a signature or a confirmation that
21 the signature used for the mail ballot belongs to the voter, as
22 applicable; and

23 (c) After a signature or a confirmation is provided, as applicable,
24 ensure the mail ballot is delivered to the mail ballot central counting
25 board.

26 8. If there is a reasonable question of fact as to whether the
27 signature used for the mail ballot matches the signature of the voter,
28 the voter must be identified by:

29 (a) Answering questions from the county clerk covering the
30 personal data which is reported on the application to register to vote;

31 (b) Providing the county clerk, orally or in writing, with other
32 personal data which verifies the identity of the voter; or

33 (c) Providing the county clerk with proof of identification as
34 described in NRS 293.277 other than the voter registration card
35 issued to the voter.

36 9. The procedures established pursuant to subsection 7 for
37 contacting a voter must require the clerk to contact the voter, as
38 soon as possible after receipt of the mail ballot, by:

39 (a) Mail;

40 (b) Telephone, if a telephone number for the voter is available in
41 the records of the clerk; and

42 (c) Electronic means, which may include, without limitation,
43 electronic mail, if the voter has provided the clerk with sufficient
44 information to contact the voter by such means.



1 **Sec. 9.** Chapter 293C of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 10 and 11 of this act.

3 **Sec. 10. 1.** *The Secretary of State and each city clerk shall*
4 *establish procedures to inform registered voters of the*
5 *requirements for voting by mail ballot, including, without*
6 *limitation:*

7 (a) *The deadline for returning a mail ballot by mail or*
8 *personal delivery; and*

9 (b) *The deadline and process for a registered voter to cure any*
10 *defect with the voter's signature on the mail ballot pursuant to*
11 *NRS 293C.26327.*

12 ↪ *The procedures established pursuant to this subsection must*
13 *not conflict with the provisions of this section and NRS 293C.263*
14 *to 293C.26337, inclusive, and section 11 of this act.*

15 2. *Each city clerk shall provide training to election board*
16 *officers and employees of the elections division of the city on the*
17 *requirements for processing and counting mail ballots, including,*
18 *without limitation, the process for allowing a registered voter to*
19 *cure any defect with the registered voter's signature on the mail*
20 *ballot.*

21 **Sec. 11. 1.** *After each city election, the city clerk shall*
22 *submit a report to the Secretary of State regarding mail ballots*
23 *that includes, without limitation:*

24 (a) *The number of mail ballots that were sent to registered*
25 *voters;*

26 (b) *The number of mail ballots that were returned by*
27 *registered voters;*

28 (c) *The number of mail ballots that were returned to the city*
29 *clerk by mail or personal delivery;*

30 (d) *The number of mail ballots that were returned without the*
31 *signature of the registered voter or that contained a defect in the*
32 *signature;*

33 (e) *The number of registered voters who were contacted by the*
34 *city clerk to cure a missing or defective signature; and*

35 (f) *The total number of mail ballots that were counted in the*
36 *city election.*

37 2. *The Secretary of State shall compile the information*
38 *received pursuant to subsection 1 from each city clerk and submit*
39 *a summary to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for*
40 *transmittal to the Legislature or, if the Legislature is not in*
41 *session, to the Legislative Commission.*

42 **Sec. 12.** NRS 293C.26314 is hereby amended to read as
43 follows:

44 293C.26314 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2,
45 if a person applied by mail or computer to register to vote, or



1 preregistered to vote by mail or computer and is subsequently
2 deemed to be registered to vote, and the person has not previously
3 voted in any election for federal office in this State, the city clerk
4 must inform the person that he or she must include a copy of the
5 information required in paragraph (b) of subsection 1 of NRS
6 293.2725 in the return envelope with the mail ballot.

7 2. The provisions of subsection 1 do not apply to a person who:

8 (a) Registers to vote by mail or computer, or preregisters to vote
9 by mail or computer and is subsequently deemed to be registered to
10 vote, and submits with his or her application to preregister or
11 register to vote:

12 (1) A copy of a current and valid photo identification; or

13 (2) A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck
14 or document issued by a governmental entity, including a check
15 which indicates the name and address of the person, but not
16 including a voter registration card;

17 (b) Registers to vote by mail or computer and submits with his
18 or her application to register to vote a driver's license number or at
19 least the last four digits of his or her social security number, if a
20 state or local election official has matched that information with an
21 existing identification record bearing the same number, name and
22 date of birth as provided by the person in the application;

23 (c) Registers to vote pursuant to NRS 293.5768 to 293.57699,
24 inclusive, and at that time presents to the automatic voter
25 registration agency:

26 (1) A copy of a current and valid photo identification;

27 (2) A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck
28 or document issued by a governmental entity, including a check
29 which indicates the name and address of the person, but not
30 including a voter registration card; or

31 (3) A driver's license number or at least the last four digits of
32 his or her social security number, if a state or local election official
33 has matched that information with an existing identification record
34 bearing the same number, name and date of birth as provided by the
35 person in the application;

36 (d) Is entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of chapter 293D
37 of NRS or the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting
38 Act, 52 U.S.C. §§ 20301 et seq.;

39 (e) Is provided the right to vote otherwise than in person
40 pursuant to the provisions of the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly
41 and Handicapped Act, 52 U.S.C. §§ 20101 et seq.; or

42 (f) Is entitled to vote otherwise than in person pursuant to the
43 provisions of any other federal law.



1 3. If a person fails to provide the identification required
2 pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 1 of NRS 293.2725 with his
3 or her mail ballot:

4 (a) The mail ballot must be treated as a provisional ballot; and

5 (b) The city clerk must:

6 (1) Contact the person;

7 (2) Allow the person to provide the identification required
8 before 5 p.m. on the ~~[sixth]~~ *third* day following the election; and

9 (3) If the identification required pursuant to paragraph (b) of
10 subsection 1 of NRS 293.2725 is provided, ensure the mail ballot is
11 delivered to the appropriate mail ballot central counting board.

12 **Sec. 13.** NRS 293C.26321 is hereby amended to read as
13 follows:

14 293C.26321 1. Except as otherwise provided in ~~[subsection 2~~
15 ~~and]~~ chapter 293D of NRS, in order for a mail ballot to be counted
16 for any election, *before the close of business of the office of the*
17 *city clerk on the day of the election*, the mail ballot must be:

18 ~~(a) [Before the time set for closing of the polls, delivered]~~
19 *Delivered* by hand to the city clerk ~~[.]~~ or any ballot drop box
20 established in the city ~~[.]~~ pursuant to this section; or

21 (b) ~~[Mailed to]~~ *Received by mail by* the city clerk . ~~[, and:~~

22 ~~— (1) Postmarked on or before the day of the election; and~~

23 ~~— (2) Received by the clerk not later than 5 p.m. on the fourth~~
24 ~~day following the election.]~~

25 2. ~~[If a mail ballot is received by mail not later than 5 p.m. on~~
26 ~~the third day following the election and the date of the postmark~~
27 ~~cannot be determined, the mail ballot shall be deemed to have been~~
28 ~~postmarked on or before the day of the election.~~

29 ~~—3.]~~ Each city clerk must establish a ballot drop box at every
30 polling place in the city, including, without limitation, a polling
31 place for early voting. A city clerk may establish a drop box at any
32 other location in the city where mail ballots can be delivered by
33 hand and collected during the period for early voting and on election
34 day. No person other than a clerk may establish a drop box for mail
35 ballots.

36 ~~[4.]~~ 3. A ballot drop box must be:

37 (a) Constructed of metal or any other rigid material of sufficient
38 strength and resistance to protect the security of the mail ballots; and

39 (b) Capable of securely receiving and holding the mail ballots
40 and being locked.

41 ~~[5.]~~ 4. A ballot drop box must be:

42 (a) Placed in an accessible and convenient location at the office
43 of the city clerk, or a polling place in the city; and

44 (b) Made available for use during the hours when the office of
45 the city clerk, or the polling place, is open for business or voting, as



1 applicable ~~[,]~~, *except that on election day, the ballot drop box must*
2 *not be available after the close of business of the office of the city*
3 *clerk.*

4 **Sec. 14.** NRS 293C.26323 is hereby amended to read as
5 follows:

6 293C.26323 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2,
7 at the request of a voter whose mail ballot has been prepared by or
8 on behalf of the voter, a person authorized by the voter may return
9 the mail ballot on behalf of the voter by mail or personal delivery to
10 the city clerk, or any ballot drop box established in the city, pursuant
11 to NRS 293C.26321.

12 2. Except for an election board officer in the course of the
13 election board officer's official duties, a person shall not willfully:

14 (a) Impede, obstruct, prevent or interfere with the return of a
15 voter's mail ballot;

16 (b) Deny a voter the right to return the voter's mail ballot; or

17 (c) If the person receives the voter's mail ballot and
18 authorization to return the mail ballot on behalf of the voter by mail
19 or personal delivery, fail to return the mail ballot ~~[, unless otherwise~~
20 ~~authorized by the voter,]~~ by mail or personal delivery ~~[:~~

21 ~~—— (1) Before the end of the third day after the day of receipt, if~~
22 ~~the person receives the mail ballot from the voter four or more days~~
23 ~~before the day of the election; or~~

24 ~~—— (2) Before the deadline established by the United States~~
25 ~~Postal Service for the mail ballot to be postmarked on the day of the~~
26 ~~election or before the polls close on the day of the election, as~~
27 ~~applicable to the type of delivery, if the person receives the mail~~
28 ~~ballot from the voter three or fewer days before the day of the~~
29 ~~election.] so that the mail ballot is received by the city clerk before~~
30 ~~the close of business of the office of the city clerk on the day of the~~
31 ~~election.~~

32 3. A person who violates any provision of subsection 2 is
33 guilty of a category E felony and shall be punished as provided in
34 NRS 193.130.

35 **Sec. 15.** NRS 293C.26325 is hereby amended to read as
36 follows:

37 293C.26325 1. The city clerk shall establish procedures for
38 the *fair and efficient* processing and counting of mail ballots.

39 2. The procedures established pursuant to subsection 1:

40 (a) May authorize mail ballots to be processed, verified and
41 counted by computer or other electronic means; and

42 (b) Must not conflict with the provisions of NRS 293C.263 to
43 293C.26337, inclusive.



1 **Sec. 16.** NRS 293C.26327 is hereby amended to read as
2 follows:

3 293C.26327 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS
4 293D.200, when a mail ballot is returned by or on behalf of a voter
5 to the city clerk, and a record of its return is made in the mail ballot
6 record for the election, the clerk or an employee in the office of the
7 clerk shall check the signature used for the mail ballot by electronic
8 means pursuant to subsection 2 or manually pursuant to
9 subsection 3.

10 2. To check the signature used for a mail ballot by electronic
11 means:

12 (a) The electronic device must take a digital image of the
13 signature used for the mail ballot and electronically compare the
14 digital image with the signatures of the voter from his or her
15 application to register to vote or application to preregister to vote
16 available in the records of the city clerk.

17 (b) If the electronic device does not match the signature of the
18 voter, the signature shall be reviewed manually pursuant to the
19 provisions of subsection 3.

20 3. To check the signature used for a mail ballot manually, the
21 city clerk shall use the following procedure:

22 (a) The clerk or employee shall check the signature used for the
23 mail ballot against all signatures of the voter available in the records
24 of the clerk.

25 (b) If at least two employees in the office of the clerk believe
26 there is a reasonable question of fact as to whether the signature
27 used for the mail ballot matches the signature of the voter, the clerk
28 shall contact the voter and ask the voter to confirm whether the
29 signature used for the mail ballot belongs to the voter.

30 4. For purposes of subsection 3:

31 (a) There is a reasonable question of fact as to whether the
32 signature used for the mail ballot matches the signature of the voter
33 if the signature used for the mail ballot differs in multiple,
34 significant and obvious respects from the signatures of the voter
35 available in the records of the clerk.

36 (b) There is not a reasonable question of fact as to whether the
37 signature used for the mail ballot matches the signature of the voter
38 if:

39 (1) The signature used for the mail ballot is a variation of the
40 signature of the voter caused by the substitution of initials for the
41 first or middle name, the substitution of a different type of
42 punctuation in the first, middle or last name, the use of a common
43 nickname or the use of one last name for a person who has two last
44 names and it does not otherwise differ in multiple, significant and



1 obvious respects from the signatures of the voter available in the
2 records of the clerk; or

3 (2) There are only slight dissimilarities between the signature
4 used for the mail ballot and the signatures of the voter available in
5 the records of the clerk.

6 5. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, if the clerk
7 determines that the voter is entitled to cast the mail ballot, the clerk
8 shall deposit the mail ballot in the proper ballot box or place the
9 mail ballot, unopened, in a container that must be securely locked or
10 under the control of the clerk at all times. The clerk shall deliver the
11 mail ballots to the mail ballot central counting board to be processed
12 and prepared for counting.

13 6. If the clerk determines when checking the signature used for
14 the mail ballot that the voter failed to affix his or her signature or
15 failed to affix it in the manner required by law for the mail ballot or
16 that there is a reasonable question of fact as to whether the signature
17 used for the mail ballot matches the signature of the voter, but the
18 voter is otherwise entitled to cast the mail ballot, the clerk shall
19 contact the voter and advise the voter of the procedures to provide a
20 signature or a confirmation that the signature used for the mail ballot
21 belongs to the voter, as applicable. For the mail ballot to be counted,
22 the voter must provide a signature or a confirmation, as applicable,
23 not later than 5 p.m. on the ~~sixth~~ *third* day following the election.

24 7. The clerk shall prescribe procedures for a voter who failed to
25 affix his or her signature or failed to affix it in the manner required
26 by law for the mail ballot, or for whom there is a reasonable
27 question of fact as to whether the signature used for the mail ballot
28 matches the signature of the voter, in order to:

29 (a) Contact the voter;

30 (b) Allow the voter to provide a signature or a confirmation that
31 the signature used for the mail ballot belongs to the voter, as
32 applicable; and

33 (c) After a signature or a confirmation is provided, as applicable,
34 ensure the mail ballot is delivered to the mail ballot central counting
35 board.

36 8. If there is a reasonable question of fact as to whether the
37 signature used for the mail ballot matches the signature of the voter,
38 the voter must be identified by:

39 (a) Answering questions from the city clerk covering the
40 personal data which is reported on the application to register to vote;

41 (b) Providing the city clerk, orally or in writing, with other
42 personal data which verifies the identity of the voter; or

43 (c) Providing the city clerk with proof of identification as
44 described in NRS 293C.270 other than the voter registration card
45 issued to the voter.



1 9. The procedures established pursuant to subsection 7 for
2 contacting a voter must require the clerk to contact the voter, as
3 soon as possible after receipt of the mail ballot, by:

4 (a) Mail;

5 (b) Telephone, if a telephone number for the voter is available in
6 the records of the clerk; and

7 (c) Electronic means, which may include, without limitation,
8 electronic mail, if the voter has provided the clerk with sufficient
9 information to contact the voter by such means.

10 **Sec. 17.** The provisions of subsection 1 of NRS 218D.380 do
11 not apply to any provision of this act which adds or revises a
12 requirement to submit a report to the Legislature.

13 **Sec. 18.** The provisions of NRS 354.599 do not apply to any
14 additional expenses of a local government that are related to the
15 provisions of this act.

16 **Sec. 19.** 1. This section and sections 17 and 18 of this act
17 become effective upon passage and approval.

18 2. Sections 1 to 16, inclusive, of this act become effective:

19 (a) Upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting any
20 regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative
21 tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and

22 (b) On January 1, 2026, for all other purposes.



