

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 178—ASSEMBLYMEMBER GRAY

PREFILED FEBRUARY 2, 2025

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to elections. (BDR 24-210)

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 the  
41 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.

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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:***

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 293.269927.***



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

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

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

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

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

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

19    (d) *The number of mail ballots that were returned without the*  
20 *signature of the registered voter or that contained a defect in the*  
21 *signature;*

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

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

26    2. *The Secretary of State shall compile the information*  
27 *received pursuant to subsection 1 from each county clerk and*  
28 *submit a summary to the Director of the Legislative Counsel*  
29 *Bureau for transmittal to the Legislature or, if the Legislature is*  
30 *not in session, to the Legislative Commission.*

31    **Sec. 4.** NRS 293.269915 is hereby amended to read as  
32 follows:

33    293.269915 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2,  
34 if a person applied by mail or computer to register to vote, or  
35 preregistered to vote by mail or computer and is subsequently  
36 deemed to be registered to vote, and the person has not previously  
37 voted in any election for federal office in this State, the county clerk  
38 must inform the person that he or she must include a copy of the  
39 information required in paragraph (b) of subsection 1 of NRS  
40 293.2725 in the return envelope with the mail ballot.

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

42    (a) Registers to vote by mail or computer, or preregisters to vote  
43 by mail or computer and is subsequently deemed to be registered to  
44 vote, and submits with his or her application to preregister or  
45 register to vote:



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

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

12 (c) Registers to vote pursuant to NRS 293.5768 to 293.57699,  
13 inclusive, and at that time presents to the automatic voter  
14 registration agency:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

37 (b) The county clerk must:

38 (1) Contact the person;

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

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



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

3     293.269921 1. Except as otherwise provided in ~~[subsection 2~~  
4 ~~and]~~ chapter 293D of NRS, in order for a mail ballot to be counted  
5 for any election, *before the close of business of the office of the*  
6 *county clerk on the day of the election*, the mail ballot must be:

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

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

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

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

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

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

25    ~~[4.]~~ 3. A ballot drop box must be:

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

28    (b) Capable of securely receiving and holding the mail ballots  
29 and being locked.

30    ~~[5.]~~ 4. A ballot drop box must be:

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

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

38    **Sec. 6.** NRS 293.269923 is hereby amended to read as  
39 follows:

40    293.269923 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2,  
41 at the request of a voter whose mail ballot has been prepared by or  
42 on behalf of the voter, a person authorized by the voter may return  
43 the mail ballot on behalf of the voter by mail or personal delivery to  
44 the county clerk, or any ballot drop box established in the county,  
45 pursuant to NRS 293.269921.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 **Sec. 7.** NRS 293.269925 is hereby amended to read as  
25 follows:

26 293.269925 1. The county clerk shall establish procedures  
27 for the *fair and efficient* processing and counting of mail ballots.

28 2. The procedures established pursuant to subsection 1:

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

31 (b) Must not conflict with the provisions of NRS 293.269911 to  
32 293.269937, inclusive.

33 **Sec. 8.** NRS 293.269927 is hereby amended to read as  
34 follows:

35 293.269927 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS  
36 293D.200, when a mail ballot is returned by or on behalf of a voter  
37 to the county clerk, and a record of its return is made in the mail  
38 ballot record for the election, the clerk or an employee in the office  
39 of the clerk shall check the signature used for the mail ballot by  
40 electronic means pursuant to subsection 2 or manually pursuant to  
41 subsection 3.

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

44 (a) The electronic device must take a digital image of the  
45 signature used for the mail ballot and compare the digital image



1 with the signatures of the voter from his or her application to  
2 register to vote or application to preregister to vote available in the  
3 records of the county clerk.

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

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

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

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

17 4. For purposes of subsection 3:

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

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

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

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

37 5. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, if the clerk  
38 determines that the voter is entitled to cast the mail ballot, the clerk  
39 shall deposit the mail ballot in the proper ballot box or place the  
40 mail ballot, unopened, in a container that must be securely locked or  
41 under the control of the clerk at all times. The clerk shall deliver the  
42 mail ballots to the mail ballot central counting board to be processed  
43 and prepared for counting.

44 6. If the clerk determines when checking the signature used for  
45 the mail ballot that the voter failed to affix his or her signature or



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

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

15 (a) Contact the voter;

16 (b) Allow the voter to provide a signature or a confirmation that  
17 the signature used for the mail ballot belongs to the voter, as  
18 applicable; and

19 (c) After a signature or a confirmation is provided, as applicable,  
20 ensure the mail ballot is delivered to the mail ballot central counting  
21 board.

22 8. If 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 the voter must be identified by:

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

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

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

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

35 (a) Mail;

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

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

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

43 **Sec. 10. 1.** *The Secretary of State and each city clerk shall*  
44 *establish procedures to inform registered voters of the*





1 requirements for voting by mail ballot, including, without  
2 limitation:

3 (a) The deadline for returning a mail ballot by mail or  
4 personal delivery; and

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

8 ↪ The procedures established pursuant to this subsection must  
9 not conflict with the provisions of this section and NRS 293C.263  
10 to 293C.26337, inclusive, and section 11 of this act.

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

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

20 (a) The number of mail ballots that were sent to registered  
21 voters;

22 (b) The number of mail ballots that were returned by  
23 registered voters;

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

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

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

31 (f) The total number of mail ballots that were counted in the  
32 city election.

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

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

40 293C.26314 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2,  
41 if a person applied by mail or computer to register to vote, or  
42 preregistered to vote by mail or computer and is subsequently  
43 deemed to be registered to vote, and the person has not previously  
44 voted in any election for federal office in this State, the city clerk  
45 must inform the person that he or she must include a copy of the



1 information required in paragraph (b) of subsection 1 of NRS  
2 293.2725 in the return envelope with the mail ballot.

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

4 (a) Registers to vote by mail or computer, or preregisters to vote  
5 by mail or computer and is subsequently deemed to be registered to  
6 vote, and submits with his or her application to preregister or  
7 register to vote:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

44 (b) The city clerk must:

45 (1) Contact the person;



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

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

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

8 293C.26321 1. Except as otherwise provided in ~~[subsection 2~~  
9 ~~and]~~ chapter 293D of NRS, in order for a mail ballot to be counted  
10 for any election, *before the close of business of the office of the*  
11 *city clerk on the day of the election*, the mail ballot must be:

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

15 (b) ~~[Mailed to]~~ *Received by mail by* the city clerk . ~~[, and:~~  
16 ~~— (1) Postmarked on or before the day of the election; and~~  
17 ~~— (2) Received by the clerk not later than 5 p.m. on the fourth~~  
18 ~~day following the election.]~~

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

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

30 ~~[4.]~~ 3. A ballot drop box must be:

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

33 (b) Capable of securely receiving and holding the mail ballots  
34 and being locked.

35 ~~[5.]~~ 4. A ballot drop box must be:

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

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



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

3     293C.26323 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2,  
4 at the request of a voter whose mail ballot has been prepared by or  
5 on behalf of the voter, a person authorized by the voter may return  
6 the mail ballot on behalf of the voter by mail or personal delivery to  
7 the city clerk, or any ballot drop box established in the city, pursuant  
8 to NRS 293C.26321.

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

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

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

14     (c) If the person receives the voter's mail ballot and  
15 authorization to return the mail ballot on behalf of the voter by mail  
16 or personal delivery, fail to return the mail ballot ~~[-, unless otherwise~~  
17 ~~authorized by the voter,]~~ by mail or personal delivery ~~[-;~~

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

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

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

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

34     293C.26325 1. The city clerk shall establish procedures for  
35 the *fair and efficient* processing and counting of mail ballots.

36     2. The procedures established pursuant to subsection 1:

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

39     (b) Must not conflict with the provisions of NRS 293C.263 to  
40 293C.26337, inclusive.

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

43     293C.26327 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS  
44 293D.200, when a mail ballot is returned by or on behalf of a voter  
45 to the city clerk, and a record of its return is made in the mail ballot



1 record for the election, the clerk or an employee in the office of  
2 the clerk shall check the signature used for the mail ballot by  
3 electronic means pursuant to subsection 2 or manually pursuant to  
4 subsection 3.

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

7 (a) The electronic device must take a digital image of the  
8 signature used for the mail ballot and electronically compare the  
9 digital image with the signatures of the voter from his or her  
10 application to register to vote or application to preregister to vote  
11 available in the records of the city clerk.

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

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

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

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

25 4. For purposes of subsection 3:

26 (a) 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 if the signature used for the mail ballot differs in multiple,  
29 significant and obvious respects from the signatures of the voter  
30 available in the records of the clerk.

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

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

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



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

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

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

24 (a) Contact the voter;

25 (b) Allow the voter to provide a signature or a confirmation that  
26 the signature used for the mail ballot belongs to the voter, as  
27 applicable; and

28 (c) After a signature or a confirmation is provided, as applicable,  
29 ensure the mail ballot is delivered to the mail ballot central counting  
30 board.

31 8. If 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 the voter must be identified by:

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

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

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

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

44 (a) Mail;



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



